

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03276 111121Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 ISO-00 SSM-03 EB-08 COME-00 DOE-11 SOE-02  
IO-13 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /103 W  
-----072836 111139Z /14

O 111028Z MAR 78 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0000  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3276

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, EG, IS, US  
SUBJECT: AMOCO INCIDENT

REF: (A) STATE 62503 (B) TEL AVIV 3266 (C) CAIRO 6553

1. IN MY DEMARCHE YESTERDAY TO YADIN, I CAME DOWN  
VERY HARD ON THE POINT THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE  
MEDIAN LINE CONCEPT. HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND SAID  
AT ONE POINT THAT THE SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT PROBLEM  
WOULD BE "WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE  
POSITIONS OF EITHER PARTY." I ALSO POINTED OUT THE  
HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST IN THE MATTER. EVERY INDICATION  
WE HAVE HAD FROM YADIN, THE MILITARY AND  
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS BEEN THAT THEY ARE PREPARED  
TO WORK WITH US TO FIND A REASONABLE WAY OF DEALING  
WITH THE PROBLEM.

2. I AM NOT TRYING TO GET BACK TO YADIN, BUT IT  
LOOKS AS IF HE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THIS  
EVENING. WHEN I DO REACH HIM, I AM NOT SURE WHAT I  
AM AUTHORIZED TO SAY WHICH WILL MOVE US FROM THE  
PRESENT DANGEROUS SITUATION. THE ISRAELIS BELIEVE  
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THAT THE AMOCO BUOY IS TO THE EAST OF THE MEDIAN LINE,  
ALBEIT THROUGH NAVIGATIONAL ERROR. AMOCO BELIEVES IT  
IS TO THE WEST. PAST EXPERIENCE (FOR EXAMPLE IN SEPT.  
1976) TAUGHT US THAT NEITHER AMOCO NOR THE ISRAELI  
NAVY IS INFALLIBLE IN SUCH MATTERS. IF THERE IS NO  
ARRANGEMENT TO RESOLVE THIS DISPUTE ON THE FACTS OF  
THE CASE, WE ARE LEFT WITH AN EYEBALL-TO-EYEBALL SITUATION

WHERE ERRORS IN JUDGEMENT ON THE SPOT COULD SET IN MOTION A REGRETTABLE CHAIN OF EVENTS. IT IS MY JUDGEMENT THAT THE GOI WILL NOT LET THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES PROCEED UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IF AMOCO TRIES TO RESUME OPERATIONS AT THEIR PRESENT LOCATION, THE ISRAELI NAVY WILL PROBABLY TAKE MEASURES TO STOP THEM.

3. EARLY PARTS OF REF C ARGUE THAT THE USG SHOULD AVOID FACT-FINDING ROLE BECAUSE THIS COULD LEAD TO POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION THAT USG ACCEPTS GOI MEDIAN LINE CONCEPT. HOWEVER, AS WE READ PARAGRAPH 4 OF REF C, EMBASSY CAIRO SEEMS TO FAVOR YADIN'S FIRST ALTERNATIVE (REF B), WHICH WOULD HAVE AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE PLOTTING LOCATIONS WITH THE GOI. WE ARE PUZZLED. I AM NO MORE INCLINED THAN DEPARTMENT IS TO GET EMBASSY INVOLVED IN VERIFICATION PROCESS. BUT I DO NOT THINK THE TYPE OF NON-INSTRUCTION CONTAINED IN YOUR MESSAGE IS GOING TO BE HELPFUL IN DEFUSING THIS PROBLEM. I WOULD WELCOME ANY ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS YOU OR AMOCO MAY HAVE WHICH I CAN PUT TO YADIN.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.  
VIETS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, TERRITORIAL WATERS, EXPLORATORY DRILLING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV03276  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780109-0760  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 4dc018c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 62503, 78 TEL AVIV 3266, 78 CAIRO 6553  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3359395  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMOCO INCIDENT  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PBOR, EG, IS, US, AMOCO  
**To:** STATE CAIRO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4dc018c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014